



June 1996
Volume 6 - No. 6

A NEW LEAF

A Publication of Marijuana Anonymous

The 1996 World Service Conference: The Straight Dope

by Rob M., District 6

The 1996 Conference was a resounding success. MA in Seattle (District 4) did a spectacular job of seeing to the needs and comfort of all the members, delegates, and trustees who attended. As with all Conferences, it was a long weekend, filled with lots of committee work; ironically, it seemed to pass by in the blink of an eye. Everyone worked hard from early in the morning to late in the day. Fun evening stuff (a "kids" party and a ferry-boat ride/meeting) was scheduled, creating a nice balance between work and play. The only thing in short supply was rest! We can't thank all the individual members in Seattle enough for all their effort in organizing a truly great Conference.

So....what did we accomplish? Much of the work was organizational and will take some time to implement. Over the next few months a number of new policies and procedures will start to show themselves. Here's a summary of some of the things we accomplished:

Public Information / Hospitals & Institutions

The MA Public Information Manual was approved and will become a part of the MA Service Manual. The P.I. Manual will be a great source of information, guidelines, and advice for districts, district sub-committees, meetings, and members who are trying to effectively "carry the message" and adhere to our 12-Traditions. An exciting development that will have long-term effect on MA's future is our continuing expansion into cyberspace. We will soon have our own "domain" name on the Internet

(marijuana-anonymous.org). In the near future, people all over the world will have easy and instant access to *all* of MA's literature. New meetings in "orphan" areas [where there are no structured districts] will have an easy way to tap into all the resources and support MA can provide. Furthermore, a new service position, "World Services Outreach Coordinator," has been created. This individual, in conjunction with one of the Trustees and the WS Office Manager, will develop and manage a new system of maintaining a support structure for newly started meetings.

"We can't thank all the individual members in Seattle enough for all their effort in organizing a truly great Conference."

This is a crucial step in keeping pace with the rapid growth of our fellowship.

Policies and Procedures

The issues raised by this committee inspired some healthy debate. Some of the decisions that emerged are: changes in the terms of Trustees, new procedures in the event a district disbands or consolidates with another district, an addition to the Service Manual providing guidelines on district events and fund-raisers, and the approval of the short version of MA's "12 Concepts of Service," which will also be added to the Service Manual.

Literature

Two modifications to "The 12-Questions" were approved. Several

new pamphlets are being developed: "Teens and Marijuana Addiction," "The Physical Consequences of Marijuana Addiction: Personal Stories," "Families, Friends, and Loved Ones of Potheads," "The MA Home Group: A Service Guide," and "A Facilitator's Workbook for MA Book Studies." Another major decision coming out of the Conference is that all conference-approved literature may be displayed and distributed on The MA World Wide Web Page and that our new Internet address will be added to all of our existing literature. A "business" card featuring the MA World Services' logo and *all* MAWS contact information was approved for inclusion with our meeting starter packs and other literature. A new proposed MA logo will be circulated around the fellowship for consideration and further input. The committee noted that we need to take prompt action to insure that we are in compliance with Sales Tax laws. The *Closing Prayer* and *Set-Aside Prayer*, which are traditionally used and held in great esteem by some of our northern districts, were given Conference approval. Although World Services is not in the business of "approving" prayers, the committee felt it was important to formally acknowledge these particular prayers *and* the people who love them. The committee reports that it is embarking on the creation of the second edition of *Life With Hope*, which will feature expanded content and personal stories written by our members. Members are urged to watch for

Continued on Page 4



A NEW LEAF

The purpose of *A NEW LEAF* is to carry the message of recovery from marijuana addiction. It is through the written experiences of recovering addicts and their stories that we may find experience, strength, and hope.

Articles submitted should reflect recovery, unity, and service. The articles contained in *A NEW LEAF* are the sole opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Marijuana Anonymous as a whole.

Publication Editor
Hlene M.

Managing Editor
Tamar

District 1 Bureau Chief: Gayle M.
District 2 Bureau Chief: Sheila F.
District 3 Bureau Chief: Pat Mc.
District 4 Bureau Chief: George T.
District 5 Bureau Chief: Az A.
District 6 Bureau Chief: Joellen F.
District 7 Bureau Chief: Jim L.
District 8 Bureau Chief: Jennifer S.
District 9 Bureau Chief: Bernie G.
District 10 Bureau Chief: Bill H.

Published by
A NEW LEAF Editorial Board

Patricia G., Chairman
Loren N., Treasurer
Carol Mc.
Rob M.

Send all articles, inquiries, and
correspondence to:

A NEW LEAF
P.O. Box 4314
North Hollywood, CA 91607

E-mail: ANuLeaf@aol.com
LeafEd@aol.com

Fax Number
(818) 763-9219

Editorial Phone Numbers
(818) 763-4767
(818) 957-5424

The Roving Reporter

A Collection of Views and Opinions from Around the Fellowship

This month, from the MA World Service Conference in Seattle:

“How has MA changed since you’ve been a member of the fellowship?”

Debra C., 509 Days, Dist. 7:

I’m too new to notice a “change” in MA—I can only see the change in *me* due to MA. I do see more H&I panels in my district since I came in.

Sheryl Sue, 15 months, Dist. 2:

It’s gotten bigger and more organized (progress, not perfection!).

Mary Moe, 1 Year, Dist. 4:

It’s hard to tell, since I’ve only been a member for a year. But I saw that *Life With Hope* made a wonderful difference for many people.

Bruce G., 1 Year 11 months, Dist. 10:

I can’t say, but my perception of it has—started great and has gotten better. Nothing’s perfect but renewal of one’s attitude is essential.

Carl P., 5 Years 6 months, Dist. 8:

When I came in, it was MAA (*Marijuana Addicts Anonymous*) in New York City. There were no MA chips and no Twelve and Twelve. We lost an “A” and got *Life With Hope* and time chips. Almost no one that I attended my first meetings with now regularly attends the meetings I do. MA is older and appears wiser.

Cap’n Kurt, 3 Years 9 months, Dist. 6:

It seems to be more difficult to get people willing to be of service at the meeting level and up to the district level.

Steve Mc., 31+ months, Dist. 3:

It has grown and is beginning to have a more solid foundation in recovery.

Connie M., 9 months, Portland:

It’s more organized, and there’s more literature available.

Dave V., 4 Years, Dist. 3

Well—a lot of the old timers left, saying that the meetings don’t talk about recovery enough. But MA is growing very fast, and that enlightens *me*.

Loren N., 6 Years 5 months, Dist. 6

I can start by showing you an MSA (*Marijuana Smokers Anonymous*) chip that I received at my first meeting, and most recently I can show you *Life With Hope*.

Mike B., 2+ Years, Portland:

I have just found MA (thank God!!). I have been in other 12 Step programs and am looking forward to growing in MA.

“Do you feel at home at any MA meeting, no matter where it is?”

Carl P., 5 Years 7 months, Dist. 8:

Mostly but not completely. Different areas have different formats and responses, and I feel left out when they use responses I’m not familiar with. Perhaps announcing what to expect from the format might help.

Pat Mc., 6 Years 6 months, Dist. 3:

Yes. So far I have been to meetings in L.A., San Francisco, Berkeley, South Bay, Santa Cruz, Orange County, and L.A. North. Now Seattle too! And in every meeting I have felt that same feeling I felt when I first came to MA: This is where I belong!

Jim M., 16 months, Dist. 7:

Yes, because of MA’s outline and what MA has taught me: that it’s not just about me.

Jim, 7 Years, Portland:

Yes!

Todd E., Dist. 7:

Yes. Marijuana addicts are my people. They speak my language. I am proud and blessed to be a sick f**k and to know that I am at home whenever and wherever there is an MA meeting.

Cap’n Kurt, 3 Years 9 months, Dist. 6:

Yes and no. The format may change somewhat from one area to another but the people and the love felt at a meeting seem to be the same. Once the meeting gets underway, the stories and solutions seem to share the same general theme.

Busted Again by Mike C., District 4

Hi everybody. My name is Mike C. and I'm a marijuana addict. I want to share some experience, strength, and hope with my fellow addicts.

I started smoking pot about 10 years ago. Back then it was carefree and fun—little did I know where it would lead me! I had always been a good student with a lot of potential, but as I started getting high more often my desire for success waned. I dropped out of college several times because I couldn't concentrate and my mind was always focused on getting high.

As my disease progressed, my values and morals declined. I started dealing on larger scales to support my habit. I used the common rationalization: If I didn't do it, someone else would, so why shouldn't I get the reward? (Funny, this was exactly what I got in the end.)

My wife was growing increasingly unhappy; she was fearful of my abusiveness when I was using. Pot was my drug of choice, but I also used other drugs which made my behavior very erratic. I would take anything that would numb my senses and make it so that I didn't have to deal with life or feel my emotions. Pot usually did the trick.

I began carrying a gun to protect my family, dope, and money because I had gotten to the point of dealing to anyone that had the dough. I allowed some very dangerous people into my home, putting my family at great risk of harm. But even so, I refused to believe that my actions could or would hurt anyone else. All day long, from sun up to sun down, I smoked and dealt my weed; the obsession never left my mind for a minute. I was truly miserable inside and hated myself for the things I had done and for what I had become.

I began growing it to supply even larger amounts and for increased stash. On one of my runs I got busted again—this time with a very large

quantity. I found myself in the county jail with \$10,000 bail and no hope for myself. My wife and I had just become first-time parents of a son, yet I had never felt more lonely, more desperate, and more full of pain in all my life.

For years I had tried to stop smoking but usually couldn't make it even one day. So I had given up all hope that I had any chance of ever quitting. When I was bailed out, though, I swore off pot forever. Within one day I was getting high again as tears rolled down my face because *I really wanted to stop but didn't know how.*

I reached out for help and found myself in an area treatment center. This is where my new life began, and where I was introduced to MA. I immediately connected with two groups located in Everett, Washington (the "Last Puff" and "We're Not All There!" groups). I went in with very little hope, but I really wanted to stop using. Little did I know they would also show me how to find happiness and how to live my life! They took me in unconditionally and began to show me the way.

Today I can honestly say that I no longer suffer from the misery, pain, and fear that ruled my life for years. Through surrendering my will

and working the 12 Steps of MA, the obsession to use has been removed by my higher power. Getting high is no longer an option for me. Instead, I pray that God reveal his will for me and give me the strength to carry it out.

I've been clean almost 15 months now and am legally employed. I'm even facing another raise and a possible promotion; who could have ever imagined? I would like to thank MA for saving my life, my marriage, and my family, and for showing me how to live a spiritual, peaceful existence.

I can attest to the fact that if you try to work the 12 Steps of MA in all that you do you can have a happy, joyous, and free life; you can live clean and serene. You will also be fulfilled beyond your greatest expectations; that is guaranteed in "The Promises" and has definitely come true in my life. Through MA there truly is "life with hope." Thanks again and keep carrying the message so our fellowship can stay alive.

P.S. We've just had our second child, another boy! God continues to amaze me with his gifts. My wife tells me how much she loves me and how proud she is of me. Our 10 year relationship has never been stronger. God I love this program! ☐

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS CELEBRATING THEIR SOBER BIRTHDAYS!!

MARY M.	MAY 29	1 YEAR!	AMBER B.	JUNE 15	4 YEARS
ROCCO	MAY 29	1 YEAR!	MIKKI K.	JUNE 15	5 YEARS
SEAN P.	JUNE 01	5 YEARS	MOLLY	JUNE 16	3 YEARS
MARK F.	JUNE 02	6 YEARS	BARBARA H.	JUNE 16	4 YEARS
BRIAN W.	JUNE 02	6 YEARS	AL & ALETA	JUNE 20	2 YEARS
JERRY	JUNE 06	5 YEARS	CINDY C.	JUNE 20	2 YEARS
LIBBY G.	JUNE 06	6 YEARS**	CAROL MC.	JUNE 23	8 YEARS
ROSS O.	JUNE 12	1 YEAR!	CHRIS K.	JUNE 24	3 YEARS
JIM G.	JUNE 13	2 YEARS	DEAN W.	JUNE 29	4 YEARS

(**Dig this: the girl is Six on Six/Six/Ninety-Six!!)



Conference

Continued from Page 1

news regarding the submission of personal stories for possible publication in the book. New cover art is also being considered; anyone wanting to submit ideas is encouraged to do so. Perhaps the biggest news coming out of this committee is the decision to greatly expand the role of *A NEW LEAF*. In the future, the existing structure that publishes our newsletter (which has its own Board of Directors and Treasurer) will become, in effect, the publishing arm of MA. The sale and distribution of Service Manuals, *Life With Hope*, and literature for outside entities will now be handled by *A NEW LEAF*. This change will make us much more efficient, facilitating bookkeeping, printing, inventory, and maintenance of our "non-profit corporation" status. The Conference has also authorized the rental of a proper space for the storage of our growing inventory of literature.

Finance

Our annual budget was presented, reviewed, and approved. As usually seems to be the case, we just squeaked by. (7th Tradition contributions are down—consider this: are you putting anywhere near the amount you spent on pot in the basket at your meetings?) The committee pointed out that we must raise sufficient funds to support the growth of MA. World Services will hire a much-needed accountant. The long-delayed and much-deserved raise for our WS Office Manager was approved. District 5 (Orange County, CA) will be the site of the 1997 MA Convention. Districts 1, 2, and/or 3 will host a "Bay Area" Convention in 1998. MA Conference Delegates' job responsibilities have been modified to include serving as Convention Liaisons between their Districts and the Host District. The 1997 WS Conference will be hosted by District 7 (Los Angeles - South, CA).

Well... those are the highlights. We've got a lot to do—so let's all get to it! See you next year.... ☐

Know Your Service Representatives!

MAWS Trustees (1996-1997)

President: Libby G.
 Secretary: Todd E.
 Treasurer: Jonathan R.
 Hospitals & Institutions: Kurt S.
 Public Information: Neil L.
 Literature: Bill H.
 Merchandise: Patricia G.
 New Meeting Outreach: Larry W.
 Convention: Mike LB

Delegates

District 1: Sarah B., Rebecca P.
 District 2: Sheryl Sue, Brandon R.
 District 3: Steve Mc., Pat Mc.
 District 4: Jerry A., Mary Moe
 District 5: Mike C., Victoria H.
 District 6: Rob M., Kurt S.
 District 7: Todd E., Jim M.
 District 8: Carl P.
 District 10: Bruce G., Bill H.

These people work on *your* behalf! Please call (800) 766-6779 if you have any concerns or ideas regarding MA. You will be put in touch with the appropriate person.

BULLETIN BOARD

District 6 hosts their annual **Sober Campout** (this year at Lake Piru) **July 19-21**. BYOB (Bring Your Own Boat)! For info, contact **Sunnie R.** at (818) 788-0230....**District 5's Sober Campout** is on **June 14-16** at Dark Canyon Campground (just past Stone Creek in Idyllwild). They will also host a **whitewater rafting trip** in Kernville **July 19-21**. Call **Meri K.** (714) 848-5241 for reservation info....**District 8** will have a **First, Second, and Third Step "workshop" at Coney Island June 22nd** (we understand they'll experience "powerlessness" on the subway and will "turn it over" on the Cyclone!—Ed.). Call **Diana** for info: (212) 260-4027....**Labor Day (August 30-Sept. 2) campout at Big Basin Redwoods** (Sky Meadow group site) in Santa Cruz. Call **Thomas** at (510) 654-2805 for further info.



M.A. NATIONWIDE

DISTRICT 1 - SAN FRANCISCO

P.O. Box 194252
 San Francisco, CA 94119
 (415) 522-7373

DISTRICT 2 - EAST BAY

P.O. Box 8354
 Berkeley, CA 94707
 (510) 287-8873

DISTRICT 3 - SOUTH BAY

P.O. Box 111341
 Campbell, CA 95011
 (408) 450-0796

DISTRICT 4 - SEATTLE

(206) 548-9034
 P.O. Box 1509, 539 Queen Anne Ave N.
 Seattle, WA 98109

DISTRICT 5 - ORANGE COUNTY

358 S. Main #215
 Orange, CA 92668

DISTRICT 6 - L.A. COUNTY (NORTH)

P.O. Box 2433
 Van Nuys, CA 91404
 (818) 759-9195

DISTRICT 7 - L.A. COUNTY (SOUTH)

P.O. Box 3012
 Culver City, CA 90231
 (213) 964-2370

DISTRICT 8 - NEW YORK

(212) 459-4423

DISTRICT 9 - SANTA CRUZ

P.O. Box 1481
 Santa Cruz, CA 95061
 (408) 427-4088

DISTRICT 10 - L.A. COUNTY (EAST)

P.O. Box 94400
 Pasadena, CA 91109
 (909) 787 6020 / (818) 583-9582

DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER

P.O. Box 194
 Sadsburyville, PA 19369
 (610) 622-9243

WORLD SERVICES OFFICE

P.O. Box 2912, Van Nuys, CA 91404 (800) 766-6779